

Couple Lead Baptists To "Love-A-Child"

Pelahatchie Church is sponsoring Love-A-Child as a bold mission project in Rankin County. This began as a mission action project of the WMU and then was extended to the whole church. Other Rankin County Baptists have also been invited to participate.

The object is to aid the Pearl-Rankin County Youth Court personnel in rehabilitation of boys and girls, delinquent and pre-delinquent, who have been deprived of wholesome adult relationships.

Howard and Sally Stevens, members of Pelahatchie Church who have opened their home to many youngsters referred to them by the Youth Court, are directing this Love-A-Child ministry. The project is seeking to promote the building of an urgently needed youth shelter in the county, a home where abused, neglected, or battered children may stay until temporary permanent homes can be found for them. Also the project is searching for volunteers who will offer their homes to the children for short periods of time, until such a shelter can be built.

Rehobeth Church, Rick Hammarstrom, pastor, has set an item in its budget to be contributed toward building the shelter. Pearson Church has offered its recreational facilities for the Youth Court's use. Persons in Rankin or other counties who would like more information about the needs of the project may contact Shelter Care for Children, Box 5881, Pearl, MS 39206. Also, the WMU mission action group guide, *Juvenile Rehabilitation*, is available at the Baptist Book Store, for churches or associations that would like to know more about starting such projects in their own areas.



Howard Stevens points out toinez W. Summer the boundary line of a 12-acre plot given by Bubba Flanagan of Pelahatchie as a site for a rescue shelter in rehabilitation of boys and girls, delinquent or pre-delinquent, who may be deprived of wholesome adult relationships.

John's stepfather beat him; he ran away from home. When he was brought into the Rankin County Youth Court, he was sent to a detention center, for there was no place else for him to go. He could not prove that his stepfather had beaten him, so soon he was sent back home. After another beating he ran away again. After a second visit to the youth court and detention center he became antagonistic and belligerent. This time, though, he went to live for several weeks at the home of Howard and Sally Stevens near Pelahatchie. Afterward he was permitted to live with his father, an alcoholic. One night he called Howard Stevens and said, "I just can't take life here any longer. I'm leaving." Before Stevens could get to the boy's house he had already left. John slept two nights in the woods before he was found.

Jill was sexually molested by her father, as her sister had also been molested. The Rankin Youth Court found a temporary home for her with the Stevens. She is now living with her sister, who is married. The two were planning to bring charges against their father, but their mother told them, "After all, he's your father. You don't want him to go to jail!" and they dropped the case.

Except for the names, these stories are true.

Eric, age 15, was placed in the Jackson detention center by the Rankin County Youth Court. He had been on drugs and had been caught stealing. His home had been with his mother and her third husband. "She doesn't love me," he said. "All she does is smoke and take Valium." After his arrest, his mother would not permit him to return home and would not give him his clothes. Consequently all the clothes he owned were the ones he was wearing. "Parents often refuse to give children their clothes in such situations," Sally Stevens said.

Later, while on probation, Eric arrived at the Stevens' home, wearing his only clothes. His hair was long, but no one made an issue of that. Vacation Bible School was in progress at the (Continued on page 5)

Oct. 5 Goals Set For Two Church Areas

By Judd Allen
State goals for "OCTOBER 5 HIGH ATTENDANCE DAY" are 235,000 for Sunday School and 88,800 for Church Training.

This joint venture of the state Sunday School and Church Training departments is designed to attain a high attendance on the first Sunday of the new church year. Each church is encouraged to set goals for this day and strive to achieve a high number in attendance.

Each association is enlisting several persons (one person for up to ten churches) to secure Sunday School and Church Training attendance reports following the Sunday evening worship service or early on Monday morning, October 6.

These persons will call Sunday School and Church Training attendance reports of the churches to the associational office of designated person before 11 a.m. Monday, October 6. The designated person is responsible in those associations where the director of mission's office is not the point of contact.

The state Sunday School and Church Training departments will share responsibility for calling the associational office or designated person between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Monday, October 6 (this is imperative for publication of total attendance in the Baptist Record).

This will be a most significant day in the life of Mississippi Baptists because numbers represent people and people are our major objective.

The Baptist Record

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Smith And Nutt

State Baptist Men's Rally: Nov. 10 Program Set

The annual Baptist Men's Rally which precedes the Mississippi Baptist Convention in November, will feature James Smith and Grady Nutt.

The rally, set for Nov. 10, at the Mississippi College coliseum, begins with a banquet at 5 p.m. featuring Grady Nutt, ordained Southern Baptist minister, entertainer, and regular on the Hee Haw television program.

The conference portion of the rally, which begins at 7 p.m., features James Smith, executive director of the South-

ern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis.

Musicians for the banquet will be Bill and Martha Bacon. He is minister of music at First Church, Clinton. She is a soloist, pianist, and piano teacher. Smith will be joined on the conference program by Don Snell, furloughing missionary to Dominica.

He will be giving a response from the people of Dominica as a result of the Mississippi Brotherhood ministry projects in January and February follow-

ing Hurricane David. Ninety-two Baptist Men went to Dominica during these two months and built houses for the people of Dominica.

Snell On Furlough

While on furlough, along with his wife Nancy and their son, Snell is minister of music at Grandview Baptist Church, Dothan, Ala.

James Smith has held pastorates in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. He has been a trustee of Boyce Bible School and Judson College, associate executive secretary of the Missouri Baptist Convention, a member of the Home Mission Board, and was execu-

tive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Convention.

Tickets for the banquet are available for \$5 each, and may be purchased from the Brotherhood department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39206. There is no charge for those attending only the conference portion of the rally.

Tickets for the banquet must be purchased prior to the banquet, through the Brotherhood department, because they will not be sold the evening of the banquet. Since the supply of tickets is usually exhausted before the date of the banquet, it is suggested that those interested in attending order their tickets early.

Helms Prayer Measure Likely Dead For 1980

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)—Legislation denying federal courts jurisdiction in school prayer cases appears to be all but dead in the 96th Congress.

"I would say S. 450 is going nowhere," said Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier, D-Wis., chairman of the House Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties and the Administration of Justice which recently concluded five days of hearings on the volatile school prayer issue.

Kastenmeier told Baptist Press the bulk of testimony was against the Helms proposal which was passed by the Senate in April 1979 as an amendment to S. 450.

Without a favorable report from Kastenmeier's panel and the full House Judiciary Committee, the only way for the Helms Amendment to reach the House floor is through a discharge petition initiated by Rep. Philip M. Crane, R-Ill., also an unlikely prospect.

"Right now the drive for signatures appears to have bogged down somewhat," said Gary Jarmin, legislative director for Christian Voice, one of the groups supporting the Helms measure.

The number of signatures on the discharge petition has leveled off since proponents pushed the figure to the 170-175 range with expanded efforts

early this summer, well below the 218 required to bring the bill to the House floor for a vote.

"I would be less than honest to say I am very optimistic," said Jarmin, who called the chances of getting the necessary signatures "less than likely."

Still, the Christian Voice Moral Government Fund plans to push the petition and has hired William Chasey, former lobbyist with The Roundtable, an organization of political and religious groups.

(Continued on page 2)

Leslie, Missionary Journeyman Robbed

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay — Newly-arrived missionary journeyman Randy Leslie of Tupelo, Miss., was robbed in Montevideo Sept. 3, as he entered the gates of his apartment.

Leslie was returning home about 10 p.m., when two men in their early 20's grabbed both of his arms, pulled a gun, and demanded his wallet. The robbers took a thousand pesos (110 in U.S. currency), returned the wallet, and fled. No shots were fired.

Clinton Dentist's Move To Africa Was Painless

By Jim Newton

BOUAKE, IVORY COAST (BP)—Charles Deever's move to make more in one day as a dentist in Jackson, Miss., than he makes now in an entire month as a missionary dentist in Africa. But he and his wife Dianne feel strongly that they've never had as much joy and happiness as they have now.

"You talk about money, we used to really have it," exclaimed Dianne Deever in her deep-South accent as she drove down the dusty roads of Bouake, a city of 365,000 in the heart of

The Deevers met while students at Mississippi College. Their home church is Morrison Heights in Clinton.

Ivory Coast, West Africa. "But we weren't nearly as happy then as we are now, 'cause now we're right in the center of God's will."

By the time they were 34 or 35 years old, the Deevers had earned enough money to achieve "everything we wanted to attain." But there was an emptiness in material possessions.

Dianne had felt God was calling her to missions when she was only nine years old, but her husband had never felt that sense of calling.

About eight years ago, she prayed that if God still wanted her to be a missionary that Charles would also experience a call to missions.

A few days later, he came in from his dental practice and said he had called the Foreign Mission Board to ask if they needed dentists on the mission field.

"I hadn't shared it with you yet, but I feel that the Lord is calling me into missions," he told Dianne.

After a fact-finding trip to Africa, they decided Bouake, in the Ivory Coast, was where God wanted them to serve. They were appointed as missionaries in 1974.

"The question that arose in my mind," recalled Deever, was, "What difference would one less dentist make in Jackson, Miss.?" versus the second part of the question, "What difference could one more dentist make in the Ivory Coast, a country with more than seven million people and only seven or eight dentists all the time?"

In Bouake, the Deevers seem to be making a lot of difference, not only in the physical treatment of dental patients, but in their spiritual care as well.

Although he is reluctant to claim credit for it, Deever estimates that at least half of 60 to 80 Africans who attend worship services at the mission church in Bouake have come as a direct result of the ministry of the dental clinic he directs.

On a typical day, the dental clinic will provide treatment for at least 60 patients. By comparison, one dentist in the United States with a staff of several dental assistants and one hygienist would probably consider 20 patients in one day a heavy case load, Deever says.

The key to his ability to treat large patient loads is the special design of the clinic he built in 1978, and the work of seven African dental assistants he has trained.

The dental assistants, all of them Christians, are trained to give injections, take X-rays, do extractions, make simple diagnoses, and make impressions for partial dentures. Deever

(Continued on page 3)



Men from Mississippi (Jimmy Stevens, Guthrie Hunter, Lloyd Dewberry), and missionary Dwayne Booth and son Jeff talk with Frenchmen who installed the windows.

Mantee Baptists Help To Renovate Historic Church In Paris, France

The Mantee Church answered a request from the Foreign Mission Board to go and assist in renovation work of the Ruedelille Baptist Church, Paris, France, Aug. 26-Sept. 5. This group was the third and final work crew, following crews from North Carolina and Florida.

This French-speaking Baptist church meets in a building constructed in 1874 by the American Baptist Convention. In the early 1900's Southern Baptists acquired this magnificent structure. Now, in addition to the French, Chinese and Romanian congregations also use the facility.

According to Dwayne Booth, Southern Baptist missionary in charge of the music program for France, pastor of the English-speaking Emmanuel Baptist Church, and liaison for the Foreign

Mission Board in this project: "France is truly one of the great mission fields of the world. In fact, there are probably more Christians in Africa than France. Eighty-five percent of the population is Catholic, but probably only 5-10% ever attend mass. There are approximately 5,000 Baptists in the French Baptist Federation with only 25 being Southern Baptists."

Southern Baptists have eight missionary families in France. Two of these families are from Mississippi.

According to Paul Thibodeaux, pastor of the Mantee Church, "This project has accomplished two goals. First, these work crews have provided some tangible evidence that Southern Baptists and especially laymen are truly interested in the French. Dwayne Booth said that the average Frenchman finds it hard to conceive of

anyone giving up his/her vacation to go to another country and work (the French fiercely cherish their annual vacation). Through this work, Southern Baptists are saying, 'We care about you' and are helping to fortify and seal a relationship."

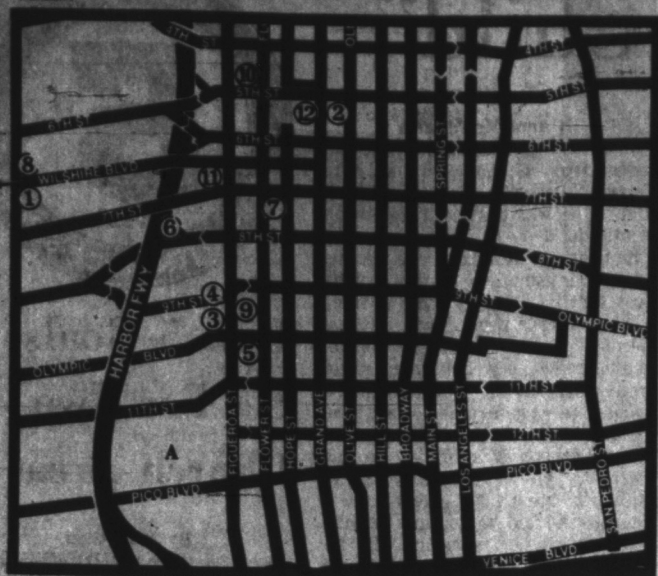
"Second, this project has truly opened our eyes to world mission needs, not only in France but around the world. The inflation rate in France and other countries is astounding. Lottie Moon dollars are rapidly devoured. As one of our men said, 'Now, that I've seen where our Lottie Moon dollars go and how inflation eats away at them, it makes me want to give more!'"

In addition to Thibodeaux, other participants in this project were Jimmy Stevens, Guthrie Hunter, Billie Carter, Donnie Womack, and Lloyd Dewberry (from First Church, Ma-



Charles Deevers and a dental assistant work on a patient-prospect.

HOTEL LOCATION AND RATES



A. Convention Center, Pastors' Conference, and WMU meeting place.

CONVENTION HOTELS

Number on Map	Hotel/Address	Single	Double	Twin
1	Ambassador 3400 Wilshire Blvd.	\$58-82.00*	\$68-100.00*	\$68-100.00*
2	Biltmore 513 S. Olive Street	\$61.00	\$76.00	\$76.00
3	Figueras 830 S. Figueras	\$32.00	\$38.00	\$40.00
4	Gale Intowne 825 S. Figueras	\$44.00	\$50.00	\$52.00
5	Holiday Inn-Convention Center 1020 S. Figueras	\$38.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
6	Holiday Inn-Downtown 750 Garland Avenue	\$35.00	\$38.00	\$39.00
7	Hyatt Regency 711 S. Hope Street	\$80-70.00	\$70-80.00	\$70-80.00
8	Hyatt Wilshire 3515 Wilshire Blvd.	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
9	Best Western-Kent Inn 820 S. Figueras	\$32.00	\$35.00	\$40.00
10	Los Angeles Donaventure Fifth and Figueras	\$84-84.00	\$79-89.00	\$79-89.00
11	Los Angeles Hilton 830 Wilshire Blvd.	\$55.00	\$70.00	\$70.00
12	Mayflower 535 S. Grand Avenue	\$46.00	\$54.00	\$54.00

*Includes rates for cottages

NOTE: Los Angeles Hilton is headquarters hotel.
WMU headquarters is Los Angeles Donaventure.



Pictured are (front) Sue Daughdrill, chairman of the Shiloh building committee; Jackie Cooke, pastor; and Charles Douglas, chairman of the budget-finance committee; (back row) Ronnie Lee; Mrs. Jesse Case; Alene Yates; Mrs. Barbara Garrett; J.B. Douglas; Jack Douglas; J. E. White, Jr.; Roy Schmidt; Maxie Boutwell; Jack Smith; and Shelby Smith.

Shiloh Church Shifts Focus On Indebtedness

As the flames at the noteburning, Sept. 7, signified the end of financial indebtedness for Shiloh Baptist Church, Lawrence Association, the church began an increased participation in mission giving.

Led by pastor Jackie Cooke, the church has increased its Cooperative Program gifts 50 percent from 10 percent to 15 percent of the budget. They also are raising special mission offerings 100 percent from 1979-80 to 1980-81. Foreign missions is budgeted for \$2,000 and home missions for \$1,000 with state missions and Baptist Children's Village getting a doubled amount.

The note they paid off was for the 3,700 square foot pastorium, built for about \$65,000, now valued at \$100,000. The education building, oldest owned by Shiloh, was completed in 1968. The

sanctuary was completed in 1970 and the pastorium in 1976. With property value in excess of half a million dollars, the church is now totally debt free.

Cooke said that his inspiration to lead the membership into increased participation came in a required course on Southern Baptist missions at Mid-America Baptist Seminary in Memphis, where Cooke earned a master of divinity degree this past May.

In 1980-81 church budget calls for 26.7 percent of all receipts to go to some phase of Southern Baptist mission work.

Shiloh averages 120 in Sunday School. Said Cooke, "It's the consensus of the church leadership that we have met our financial obligations and have tried to do our part in missions. Now it's time we concentrated on our spiritual debt."

ST. LOUIS (BP) — A St. Louis pastor has been involved in an effort to ease potential strife as St. Louis schools began massive busing to comply with a federal court desegregation order.

Larry Lewis, pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church, was one of a number of pastors who volunteered to work at schools heavily impacted by black-to-white or white-to-black busing.

"I was part of a greeting committee in North St. Louis," Lewis said. "We worked at Soldan High School, where whites were being bused into a predominantly black school. We were

there to meet and greet the students, to help create good will."

Involvement of the ministers was spearheaded by the Coalition for Peaceful Integration and Quality Education, although several ministerial groups took part.

Included was the Southside Ministerial Association, a group of about 100 ministers of various denominations, including Catholic and Jews.

"We have been talking about busing for two years," said Lewis, who was association president last year. "We anticipated busing would be ordered and we discussed how we could help

create an orderly transition."

For the first days of the busing, Lewis said "things went along beautifully. There was absolutely no hostility or difficulties." Then, white students boycotted a southside high school to which blacks were being bused.

"It was disheartening," Lewis said. "But we are determined to do what we can to ease the situation."

When the boycott continued, about 50 ministers showed up at the school — Cleveland High School — to help ease strife and prevent violence.

"There was no violence or harassment," Lewis said. "I believe the ministers' presence tended to keep those things down."

He indicated the ministers will continue working as welcoming committees until the problem is resolved.

Even with the boycott, Lewis said he has been "impressed at the minimum of violence or bitterness. A great number of the students seem to be taking the initiative to create good will. Some wore pins which said, 'Let's make it work.'"

Lewis became more involved because his church "is the largest significant church in South St. Louis. We have more than 800 young people enrolled, and all are involved in the busing decision. Not all were bused, but all

were in schools where busing occurred.

"I became involved because many of these students were involved. I kept hearing students and parents tell me they weren't going to be bused, or that they would drop out or things like that. I felt it was very important for me to be a positive influence in this matter," Lewis added.

He noted he does not "personally favor busing to achieve racial balance in schools," but added: "We as Christians are committed to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. When people sell their homes, drop out of school or become part of a radical, militant protest group, they are not being part of the solution."

Lewis recalled he told his congregation that "getting on a bus and riding over to Soldan (High) can hardly be equated with getting on a bus in Nazi Germany and riding to the gas chamber. It (the current situation) is not all that bad..."

Lewis added he believes the relative calm of the desegregation was brought about by the "good race relations we have had in St. Louis. Baptists always have had good relations, and we at Tower Grove are thoroughly integrated: we have 200 to 300 blacks in our services every Sunday."

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

JUNE 9-11, 1981 LOS ANGELES, CA

MAIL TO

SBC
HOUSING BUREAU
P.O. Box 71608
Los Angeles, CA 90071

OFFICIAL HOUSING REQUEST FORM

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

- PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL ITEMS TO ASSURE ACCURACY.
- COMPLETE EACH PART BELOW IN DETAIL FOR CORRECT AND RAPID COMPUTER PROCESSING.
- SHOULD MORE THAN ONE (1) ROOM BE NEEDED, SUPPLEMENTAL ROOMS LIST MUST BE ATTACHED USING SAME FORMAT AS IN PART III.
- ALL CONFIRMATIONS WILL BE SENT TO INDIVIDUAL INDICATED IN PART I.

PART I

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete requested data using abbreviations as necessary.

(NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING ROOMS)

If necessary, photocopies of this form may be used to make additional reservations.

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(FIRST NAME)

(LAST)

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(STREET ADDRESS OR P.O. BOX NUMBER)

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(CITY)

(STATE)

(ZIP - U.S.A.)

(Area Code)

(PHONE NUMBER)

Must be received by Housing Bureau no later than May 11, 1981

PART II

INSTRUCTIONS: Select FIVE Hotels/Motels of your choice. No request will be processed without FIVE choices.

FIRST CHOICE

SECOND CHOICE

THIRD CHOICE

FOURTH CHOICE

FIFTH CHOICE

PART III

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. PRINT OR TYPE NAMES OF ALL PERSONS OCCUPYING EACH ROOM.

2. SELECT TYPE ROOM DESIRED WITH ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES.

3. SUPPLEMENTAL LIST FOR ADDITIONAL ROOM MUST USE SAME FORMAT.

4. PRINT OR TYPE LAST NAME FIRST.

Name of all persons occupying the room (print last name first)

1		3	
2		4	

Arrival Date

Departure Date

Arrival Time

Check type of room desired:

Single (1 bd/1 pr)

Triple (2 bd/3 pr)

Double (1 bd/2 pr)

Quad (2 bd/4 pr)

Twin (2 bd/2 pr)

Other (specify)

IMPORTANT: No phone orders will be accepted. Hotel locations are shown on accompanying map. Make a photocopy of your order for your files. Housing Bureau processes reservations in order of date received. Confirmations will come direct from your hotel. DO NOT SEND DEPOSITS WITH RESERVATIONS. If rooms are not available at hotels of your choice, comparable reservations will be made at another cooperating hotel. If rate requested is not available, next available rate will be assigned. Cancellations and other changes may be made by phoning the Housing Bureau (213) 488-0211.

NOTE: PLEASE RECHECK ALL ITEMS FOR CORRECT INFORMATION

DO NOT MAIL BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 1980

St. Louis Pastor Helps Ease Busing Strife

ST. LOUIS (BP) — A St. Louis pastor has been involved in an effort to ease potential strife as St. Louis schools began massive busing to comply with a federal court desegregation order.

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East McComb Women Assist Disaster Task Force

The WMU Baptist Women group of East McComb Church, McComb, has been assisting Mississippi Baptists' disaster task force in an unusual way, according to Ethel McKeithen, consultant, state WMU. On three occasions they have prepared bags of personal items to be distributed during a disaster. These have included toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, plastic razors, etc. Some of the women made cloth bags and some even em-

force," said Miss McKeithen, "and for the many volunteers who serve when a disaster occurs in our state and even beyond." She added, "Baptist Women groups in many of our churches may wish to help in this type of mission involvement. Write Rusty Griffin, Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205."

Christian Life Commission Sets Budget, Asks Hunger Meet

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission members approved an operating budget for 1980-81 of \$600,000, honored their top executive for 20 years of service and approved expanded programs on strengthening families, race relations, hunger and Christian citizenship development.

David King of Santa Fe, N.M., was elected as the commission's new chairman succeeding John Claypool of Jackson, Miss. King, a member of First Baptist Church of Albuquerque, recently resigned as secretary of the New Mexico Department of Administration and Personnel and is a candidate for one of New Mexico's two seats in the United States House of Representatives.

Patricia Ayres, an at-large member from Sewanee, Tenn., was elected as vice-chairman and David George, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church of Nashville, was elected recording secretary.

The budget approved during the annual business session of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission reflects a 6.8 percent increase over last year's budget of \$561,000. The agency has projected a 50 percent increase in sales of literature and products from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

The budget does not include a cost-of-living adjustment for employees. Commission Chairman Claypool said the commission members "wrestled with what inflation is doing to us, but with our limited income we had no other alternatives and a cost-of-living adjustment was simply not possible."

Commission members also authorized a request of \$600,000 in Cooperative Program allocations for 1981-82. The request is to be made before the Program Committee of the South-

ern Baptist Convention Executive Committee is a 27 percent increase over the 1980-81 allocation.

In supporting their request, the commission members cited new initiatives they feel are greatly needed among Southern Baptists in the areas of family, citizenship, racial and ethnic concerns, hunger, alcohol education and action, and other moral concerns affecting the life and work of the convention.

New programs authorized include production of video cassettes and cassette tapes for use by local churches on numerous moral issues with special emphasis on help for families. Authorization was also voted for a specialized conference to encourage preaching on ethical issues and consultations on peace with justice, Hispanics, and ethics and the media.

The national staff was asked to convene a meeting of the heads of Southern Baptist Convention agencies with program assignments related to hunger to plan a unified Southern Baptist effort for the promotion of World Hunger Sunday in 1981 and to work for improved correlation of Southern Baptist hunger relief efforts.

Commission members also passed resolutions expressing appreciation to the Presidential Commission on World Hunger for its work toward alleviation of domestic and world hunger and urging the Congress of the United States to enact legislation which will implement the recommendations of the presidential commission. The resolution referred to such legislation as the Hunger and Global Security Bill which is soon to be introduced in Congress.

A resolution on Christian citizenship passed by the commission members calls for the Christian Life Commission to strongly encourage Southern Baptists "to continue our current

openness to political involvement in behalf of public righteousness, being careful to do so in ways that are biblically oriented and in line with historic Baptist principles."

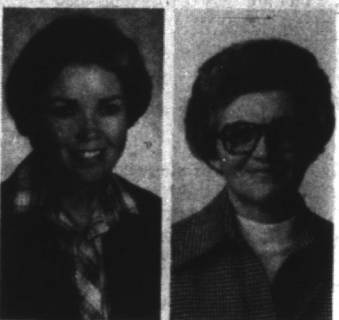
In other action, the commission presented an award for distinguished service in Christian social ethics to G. Willis Bennett, professor of church and community and director of graduate studies at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Commission members and staff also honored Foy Valentine, executive director of the commission for 20 years of service. Included in the recognition was a cash gift of \$2,700 and a month's discretionary leave each year, in addition to his four weeks vacation, for study and writing.

BYW Camp Theme Is Making Bold Choices

By Marilyn Hopkins, BYW Consultant, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union

The annual Baptist Young Women Retreat, October 10-11, at Camp Garaywa, will bring together BYW from all over Mississippi... single and married, between the ages of 18 and 29.



McMinn

DuBard

"Making Bold Choices" will be the theme for the weekend and BYW will be challenged to make life-changing commitments in order to support world missions.

Rachel DuBard, foreign missionary associate, Monrovia, Liberia, will tell about her work as a teacher at the Ricks Institute and share her call to missionary service. Miss DuBard is from Carrollton.

Charlotte McMinn of Clinton will lead in the Bible study for the retreat. Three sessions will be presented on "Designs for Discipleship" using Luke 9:23 as the basis of the study.

Special BYW method conferences will be offered by Mrs. Kenneth Rhodes, Poplarville; Using Contempo; Mrs. Elton Whitley, Tupelo; Mission Action; Mrs. Alan Griffin, Laurel; Praying. All three young women serve as associational BYW directors.

The new spiritual development book for BYW, "Surprise! Gifts for You," will be introduced Friday evening by Marilyn Griffin of Laurel. The new International Fashion Design Style Show will be presented Saturday morning by the Baptist Young Women from Sladen Baptist Church.

Library's Group Sets Workshop

The Mississippi Church Library Organization will hold its fall workshop at First Church, Greenville, Oct. 24 and 25.

Jacquelyn Anderson, consultant, church library department, Sunday School Board, Nashville, will present book recommendations, to librarians attending the conference.

A native of Georgia, Miss Anderson holds the B.A. degree from Tift College and the M.L.S. degree from George Peabody College for Teachers. She formerly was on the staff of First Baptist Church, Griffin, Ga.

Miss Anderson is the author of eight Broadman cassette tapes in the Media Center Technique Series, and the author of three Broadman Press books concerning the church library/media center.

Others on program will include James Rose, Keith Mee, and Mancil Ezell, all of the church library department, Baptist Sunday School Board, SBC.

"Paternal wisdom," says a bachelor, "consists of bringing up your children so someone else will like them besides you." — The Upper Room

Mississippi Baptist Activities

Sept. 28 Church Training & Recognition Night
Sept. 28-Oct. 5 Sunday School Preparation Week
Sept. 29-Oct. 2 Associational Baptist Women Directors' Retreat, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
29—Madison Baptist Church, Madison
30—Temple, Hattiesburg
1—Easthaven, Brookhaven
2—FBC, Louisville



Temple Youths Survey, Sing, Teach In Colorado

Forty-five youths and adult chaperones of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, recently concluded a 13-day combined mission and choir tour to Craig, Colo., a city of about 14,000 in northwest Colorado, where many work as coal miners.

The group presented "The Witness" in churches while traveling to Craig, once at Immanuel, the host church in Craig, and ending with a home concert at Temple.

While in Craig, the young people led Immanuel Church in several different ministries. They conducted a Vacation Bible School mornings at the church, held a day camp at the city park afternoons, and at night shared in a church revival experience, with Harry L. Lucenay, the pastor of Temple, preaching and Richard Davis, minister of youth at Temple, leading the music. The group also surveyed the city of Craig to locate potential church members.

Pastor Lucenay stated, "This mission tour provided an educational opportunity to see and be a part of Southern Baptist pioneer mission work. More important, it allowed our young people to be a part of the bold mission emphasis our church and convention are committed to for the next 20 years."

He added, "Temple Church is committed to local, home, and foreign missions, and is actively doing her part to fulfill the intent and aim of the Great Commission."

The retreat will also offer music, fun, and fellowship as more than 100 young women gather Friday evening for this weekend meeting.

The weekend cost is \$12.00. This includes meals, room, insurance and programming. Deadline for registration is Monday, October 6, and is not refundable after this date. Registration will begin at 5 p.m. in the small dining room at Garaywa.

The evening program begins at 7:30 p.m. and the retreat will conclude Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

Each BYW should bring sheets (single bed) blanket or sleeping bag, pillow case, Contempo, Bible and a note book. Pillows are furnished by Camp Garaywa.

For more information write or telephone, Marilyn Hopkins, WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205, phone 354-3704. Information needed with registration: church name; number attending; amount enclosed; person sending reservation with address and telephone number (office and home).

Twenty-five churches were represented at the retreat last year. Perhaps your church will be represented this October 10-11!

Lauderdale Begins Part Time CSM Program

The Lauderdale Baptist Association began a new program on September 15 in the area of Christian social ministries. This ministry is to be directed on a part time basis by Charlotte Johnson, who also serves part time as Baptist Student Union director for Meridian Junior College and Matty Hersee School of Nursing.

Miss Johnson is a graduate of Meridian Junior College, the University of Southern Mississippi, and Southwestern Seminary, where she received the master of religious education degree.

Included in this program are possibilities for a mission center for food and clothing distribution, Bible study groups to minister to the unchurched, and a ministry to nursing homes and hospitals with other areas of need to be discovered along the way.

The program of Christian social ministries is to be carried out in cooperation with the Cooperative Missions department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and the missions division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Leon B. Young is director of missions for Lauderdale Association.

Pastor's Wife Dies In Jackson

Dorothy King Ayo of 128 Wagwood St., Jackson, died of cancer at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center on Sept. 15. She is survived by her husband, Thomas J. Ayo, pastor of Temple Baptist Church of Jackson; one daughter, Mrs. Susan Haigler of Bon Secour, Ala.; three grandchildren: Theresa LaCoste, Becky Haigler and Bobby Haigler; three brothers; and five sisters. The Ayos have served churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Penalties Raised For Driving While Drunk — "New York State is hoping to sober up drunken drivers with some stiff penalties. Even first offenders will risk losing their licenses for longer than previously required by law, and anyone with three offenses in seven years will face automatic revocation of his or her license. Under the new law, licenses will be suspended for longer than before and drunken-driving offenses will remain on a person's record longer. James Melton, the State Motor Vehicles Commissioner, said the new drunken-driving law was a 'clear warning' that there was a 'much better chance' of being convicted and penalized." — (The New York Times, Sept. 2, 1980)

First, Carthage: Sept. 28-Oct. 1; regular services on Sunday, 12 noon and 7:00 p.m. during the week; Robert Self, pastor of FBC, Batesville, evangelist; Don Odom, FBC, Sumrall, music evangelist; Ed Hamilton, pastor.

Revival Dates

First, Carthage: Sept. 28-Oct. 1; regular services on Sunday, 12 noon and 7:00 p.m. during the week; Robert Self, pastor of FBC, Batesville, evangelist; Don Odom, FBC, Sumrall, music evangelist; Ed Hamilton, pastor.

Clinton Dentist's Move To Africa Was Painless

(Continued from page 1)

ers does the more advanced dental work, such as root canals, dental surgery and fillings.

To qualify for the position, each of the dental assistants must be an evangelical Christian who knows how to share his faith.

Deevers feels strongly that the Lord has sent each one of the dental assistants to him, pointing out that the seven assistants can speak most of the major tribal languages of the area.

The dental treatment Deevers stressed, is not an end in itself, but a means to the end of proclaiming the gospel. "Our first goal is to reach people for Christ, to witness to people, and then to use dentistry as a means of communicating with the people," he said.

When the patients arrive every morning at the clinic, they hear a message by missionary Dan Routledge, the field evangelist who lives in Bouake. Routledge preaches in French, explaining who Jesus is and why the Baptist mission is providing dental care for the people.

The message is also translated into at least two tribal languages.

The dental staff begins seeing patients only after they have had their own private devotion period, sometimes coupled with a dental training session taught by Deevers.

In and outside the clinic, Charles and Dianne Deevers seek to witness boldly to everyone they meet. But often, they say, it is not necessary for them to look for opportunities to share their faith. "The Lord just sends people to us," Dianne said.

In addition to witnessing, Dianne has discovered another form of ministry.

Soon after arriving in Bouake, she began to pray that God would reveal to her how she could minister to the people. "The words, 'a hospital ministry,' kept coming into my mind, but I didn't know what that meant," she recalled.

Not long afterwards, she went to a meeting where an older missionary, who was going home on an extended furlough, approached her. She told Dianne that she had been praying that God would lead her to the person who

would take over her hospital ministry. "Every time I pray, I keep getting your name," she said.

Now, Dianne goes into the hospital wards to offer Bibles, tracts, books and cassette tapes to those who respond.

Numerous patients have trusted in Christ as a result.

One woman told her, "Before you came in here, I didn't know who God was, and my heart was dark and black inside; but now that I have prayed to receive Jesus, it feels like a light has been turned on inside me."

On another occasion, she led a Muslim hospital patient to Christ. Another man heard her voice and asked her to come to his room and share the same story.

"Those words in that book, they touched my heart," he said. He too accepted Christ that day.

Two days later the Muslim man died. "I never dreamed the man was that close to eternity," Dianne recalled.

The experiences they have had brought so much joy and happiness that the Deevers hope and pray that more Christian dentists will give up their practice in the United States and volunteer for missionary service.

"There is a tremendous need," said Deevers. "In the Ivory Coast alone, we could easily use 50 more dentists. Every country in West Africa needs more dentists."

Deevers is convinced that dentists can really make a difference. And his unique dental ministry proves that point.

(Adapted from the September issue of World Mission Journal.)

Let us, then, be up and doing, with a heart for any fate; still achieving, still pursuing, learn to labor and to wait. — Henry W. Longfellow.

A stranger stopped for a drink of water and wanting to be sociable to the old farmer sitting, barefooted, on the porch of his tumbledown shack said, "How is your cotton coming?"

"Ain't got none, afraid of boll weevils," said the farmer.

"How is your corn?" said the stranger.

"Didn't plant none, afraid it wouldn't rain," replied the old farmer.

"Well, how about your potatoes?"

"Ain't got none, powerful lot o' potato bugs in these parts."

"Well, what did you plant?" asked the exasperated stranger.

"Nothin'," replied the farmer, "I'm just playin' it safe."

Unfortunately, many of us are just playing it safe, waiting for someone else to do the thinking, the acting, and the planting. — J. A. Cheley.



Bivocational Pastors needed for church planting opportunities in Southern Baptist growth and expansion areas. If God has called you to this ministry and you would like more information:

Dial—Bivocational Hotline
1-800-241-3848

Toll free calls will be received from October 1 through October 31 only. You may also write:

Bivocational Missions
Church Extension Division
1350 Spring Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30367

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FUTURE

BEGINS . . .

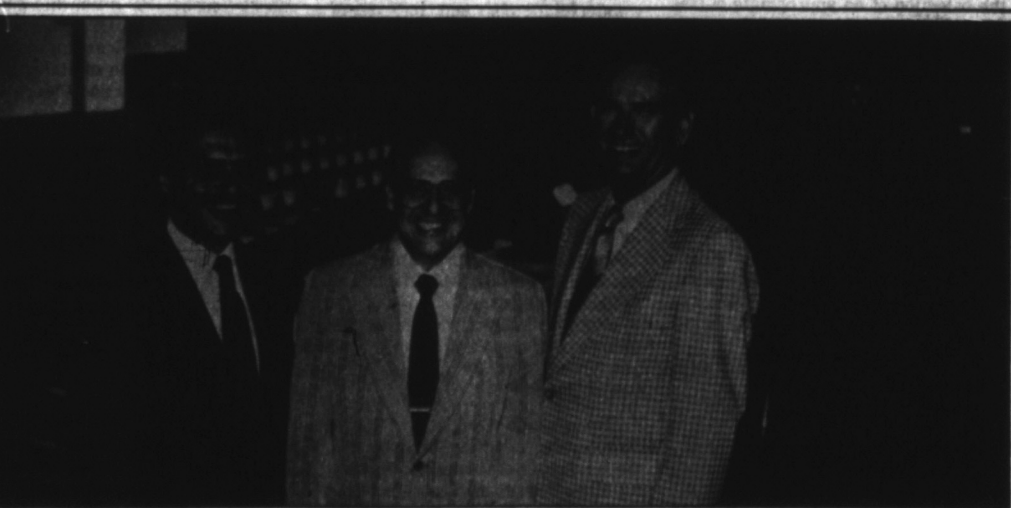
WHERE?

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Dr. Joe McKeever, pastor, Atwell Andrews, vice chairman, and John Dowdle, chairman of the building committee, are pleased with their restored sanctuary.

L. L. Sams and Sons Completes Renovation

Members of the First Baptist Church of Columbus recently moved back into their refurbished sanctuary. Renovation of the 80-year-old structure provided increased seating and restored the facility's historic beauty. The project was planned and executed by L.L. Sams and Sons of Waco, Texas.

Long the recognized leader in church renovations, L.L. Sams provides for all phases of construction from planning and consultation to experienced construction crews which execute the job.

When you begin planning to renovate your church facilities, call L.L. Sams and Sons, Waco, Texas 817/752-9751.

SAMS

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Bold Mission Thrust?

Who ministers to the unlovely?

The time of the state missions offering, a trip to New Orleans, and a look around Jackson have brought on a nagging question that is not conveniently fading away. The question is, do we have room in our ministry anywhere for the unlovely, the down and out, the misfits of society?

Church growth specialists say church growth occurs in homogeneous groups, and that simply means people like us. That would seem to say that if we are going to attract people of certain levels of society to our churches, we must be as they are.

There seems to be out there, however, a multitudinous number of people who are found to be on a lower level of society than most Southern Baptists are to be found. Where are their churches?

Inviting them to established, middle-class churches might prove to be less than practical. They probably wouldn't come.

The spiritual need among those people, however, must be astounding. All of a sudden they seem to be everywhere. Surely they have been

visible all along, but I had not looked at them.

On Friday I was driving home from work, and I saw a rather dirty and disheveled young man sitting on a curb. His head was bowed as if in despair. He could have been waiting for a ride, but not likely. This was just off the interstate, and he would have had to walk some distance to get there. Maybe he had problems. Maybe he didn't. The question is, if he did, had anyone told him about Jesus. I didn't.

On Sunday morning I was driving to a speaking engagement and had only time to get there. I passed an old woman standing beside an old car that obviously had given up. She was unkempt, and the car was on the wrong side of a six-lane street near downtown Jackson. I had to wonder how long it had been since she had been inside of a church building and if anyone actually cared how long it had been. I didn't stop to find out or to express any kind of concern. I did try to raise someone on the CB radio to inform of her distress and even failed at that.

On Monday morning I was going through Brandon on my way to another speaking engagement and passed a young man who had just got

out of the cab of a tractor-trailer rig. He obviously had ridden too long and his right knee was failing to function. It almost gave way completely, and he had to support himself against the truck. He was the neatest of the three, but again I wondered what sort of witness is available or what worship experience is available for those traveling seven days a week. Again I tried the CB, and this time got a response. But the responder had already passed the problem.

Not that it makes any difference, but all of these people were white. It could well be that none of the three had any particular problem other than being stuck beside a freeway without transportation, having a car that wouldn't run, or having ridden in a truck too long. Perhaps they all have been or still are regular in church attendance. This, however, is most unlikely. And even if all three of them are pillars of some congregation, how great must be the multitude of those who are not even aware of where the nearest church building is located.

They are people who just don't fit into our scheme of life. Under the homogenous theory of church growth,

the people who are in the same social structure should be trying to reach them. But I don't know of any churches that are operated by people of those sections of society. Probably there wouldn't be any money to operate them.

I don't have any answers. The question, however, is not fading away. If these three are not lost, there are many like them who are just as lost as any resident of Africa or South America might be. How can we feel we are being honest with our Bold Mission Thrust if we don't find some way of providing a witness to these kinds of people? Our goal insists that we make a witness available to everyone in the world by the end of the century. In America today there have to be hundreds of thousands of people who are born, grow up, and die without ever having been confronted with the love of God. This is while we sit in comfortable church buildings week after week. Something seems out of balance.

One begins to feel uncomfortable as he thinks of the priest and the Levite on the road to Jericho. Maybe they were on their way to meetings also. —DTM



WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST? SHALL TRIBULATION, OR DISTRESS, OR PERSECUTION, OR FAMINE, OR NAKEDNESS, OR PERIL, OR SWORD? —NAY, IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM THAT LOVED US. —ROM. 8:35-37

Places and Places

Summer's End

Stringy mare's tails
flow languidly
across steel-blue skies
like white-caps on a placid sea

Haze hangs in the hollows
at dawn
crisp, dry grasses mourn
for rain

Curling kudzu crackles
on the vines
cicadas chirp at dusk
in melancholy chorus
lamenting summer's end

—Helen F. Monroe

Fall arrived Monday afternoon. I could believe it last week as I drove north up the Trace to Tupelo and Corinth. Though drought turned leaves yellow in Jackson earlier than usual, more red and yellow leaves were in evidence there than here. Acres of goldenrods were sunning themselves in Tishomingo County.

I was enroute to a fall workshop for Mississippi Press Women at Holiday Inn, Corinth.

My friend, Margaret Fry, a former neighbor of ours in Jackson, and an employee of Mississippi School Supply, went with me. We stopped Thursday afternoon at the Natchez Trace Inn for a cup of coffee, and then drove a mile on Highway 6 to the Bissell Church, where I interviewed G. L. Ford, Brother Ford, pastor at Bissell for 35 years, will retire soon.

The news people at the workshop were given a tour of the construction site of Yellow Creek Nuclear Power Plant; a ride along the Divide cut of the Tennessee — Tombigbee Waterway project; and a tour of Hall's of Mississippi, a gigantic printing company at Corinth. We were bombarded with facts like, "The Yellow Creek Nuclear Power Plant will cover 1,160 acres in Tishomingo County. It would take 13 dams the size of Pickwick to produce as much power as this plant."

Have you ever noticed that when you go on a tour of almost any place, the guide says, "This is the tallest tower in the world, or the longest bridge, or the oldest house . . ." Whatever it is, is always the biggest or the best in the world. The "second tallest poplar tree in Mississippi" is at the edge of the nuclear plant site.

"The biggest ditch" — this side of Panama anyhow — is going to be in Mississippi, it seems to me, when the Tennessee — Tombigbee Waterway is complete. The digging going on at the

deepest cut of the Divide, and the way the trucks line up to receive the dirt from the "digging machine" and take it to a disposal site is astounding.

I know that \$110,000 of the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering is allocated for new mission work, and that growth related to this new waterway is one reason more churches and missions will be needed. It was definitely exciting to get a close look at the canal construction.

The Divide section cut of the waterway is 27 miles long. The channel bottom width in it is 280 feet. The maximum depth of cut through the Divide is 175 feet, with an average cut of 50 feet.

The contract for excavating the deepest part of the cut was the largest single civil works contract awarded by the Corps of Engineers. It provides for excavating and disposing of an estimated 94.3 million cubic yards of material from the waterway and 2.5 million cubic yards of material from diversion channels, a task surpassing the 75 million cubic yards moved to form the Suez Canal and ranking with the 94 million cubic yards removed from the Culebra Cut of the Panama Canal. There are 38 disposal sites.

We spent two hours walking through Hall's, where National Geographic is printed and mailed. The tour guide there said that the company uses 16 to 18 million pounds of a paper a month, valued at about \$12 million a year. The rolls of it we saw stacked in one of their two warehouses looked like enough to last to the year 2,000! Hall's has 850 employees on three shifts to print, bind, and mail out 11 or 12 million National Geographic Magazines a month, as well as many catalogues.

Barbara Kinney, feature freelancer for 20-20 News, ABC-TV, and Gary Ford, assistant travel editor, Southern Living, spoke on Saturday. Barbara, who has interviewed everybody from Cary Grant to John Glenn and has "been everywhere and seen everything," told about going as a child with her newspaperman father when he interviewed an old lady, a relative of Wild Bill Hickok. They stayed all day and got loads of information from the woman, but the woman, who was lonely, thanked them over and over for coming. "Maybe more than going to get something from those we interview," she said, "we should leave something with them, too." To give as well as to get. I think that's a good philosophy, not just for news reporters, but for persons in any profession.

Guest Opinion

Selling The Cooperative Program

By Bennie Boone

October is Cooperative Program Month on the Southern Baptist Convention calendar. Though I do not always follow the special emphases on the convention calendar, I did feel the need to emphasize the work of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program. So on Cooperative Program Day (April 20) I preached on The Great Commission and the Cooperative Program.

In the sermon I talked about the great things Southern Baptists are doing through the Cooperative Program. I pointed out that with a budget of more than \$16 million dollars Southern Baptists support 6,000 full-time missionaries at home and abroad. Through these missionaries we preach the gospel in over 90 foreign countries.

We also support six seminaries with 10,000 students who are studying for full-time Christian vocations. Sixty-seven Baptist colleges receive the support of the Cooperative Program. Many radio and T.V. programs are sent out over the air waves weekly with the support of the Cooperative Program. More importantly, Southern Baptists have averaged a thousand baptisms a day for the past 25 years.

I closed my message by sharing the goals of Southern Baptists in Bold Missions Thrust. It is the goal of Southern

Baptists to preach the gospel to every person in the world, and give them an opportunity to receive Christ, by the year 2000. It was pointed out that if we are going to reach those goals we must be better stewards with our money and increase our giving to the Cooperative Program.

When the service was over one of my men came to me and said: "I didn't know we were doing all that. I have been giving some of my money to various Christian programs that I watch on television because I thought they were doing more." It suddenly dawned on me that I had not been doing a good job of educating my people on what Southern Baptists are doing through the Cooperative Program.

It is difficult indeed to put your money in a better place to do God's work than in your own Southern Baptist church which supports the Cooperative Program. Could it be that many Southern Baptists are supporting various Christian T.V. programs with their money because we are not doing a good job of educating our people about what Southern Baptists are doing through the Cooperative Program?

I suggest this is the case with many churches. We need to do a better job of educating our people about the great work Southern Baptists are doing

through the Cooperative Program and challenge them to be better stewards with their money so that we can do even greater work. When we begin to do as good a job of selling the Cooperative Program work to our people as the television preachers do at selling their programs, then thousands of Southern

Baptists will stop sending millions of dollars to their programs which are doing less work for the Lord and will begin to be better stewards with their money through the Cooperative Program.

Bennie Boone is pastor of Eighth Avenue Baptist Church in Meridian.

Book Reviews

PRACTICAL DISCIPLESHIP by Jesse C. Fletcher (Broadman, 146 pp., \$4.95) Fletcher delves into the subject of discipleship, from every angle. He says discipleship is more than making disciples—it is a life-changing experience that is a process. Most Christians have failed to understand this process—and in fact have resisted it, he adds. The book has three parts: The Intent of the Father; The Image of the Son; The Instruction of the Spirit. Best-selling author Fletcher pulls no punches: "A new closeness to Christ will make us more effective witnesses than ever we could be by stumbling along without grasping what Christ is trying to do in our lives or responding in an effort to flow with him in the process. . . ."

Very frequently rich parents are poor parents. —Greenville News

LOVE ME WITH TOUGH LOVE by Anne Ortlund (Word Books, 77 pp., \$3.95) Anne Ortlund laces this book with her own experiences as she offers the reader practical advice on forming small "spiritual family" groups within the church and learning to rejoice, suffer, pray, encourage, confess, forgive, and communicate with one another. Mrs. Ortlund, wife of a Congregational pastor in Pasadena, Calif., maintains that a Christian's "first priority is God, the second is fellow believers, and the third, your work and your witness in the world." She says that the discipling process needs to be a constant flow through every believer's life: "You must be continually learning from someone who knows more than you do, and then you must be continually passing on what you know to someone who knows less."

Guest Opinion

Boys — It's Up to You

By Herbert S. Hoff

Have you ever had the experience of attempting to provide comfort to a close friend who had suffered the loss of two dear loved ones the same day? Several years ago while serving as a school administrator in one of Mississippi's municipalities, I had the opportunity to share with an unusually good friend a traumatic but spiritually rewarding experience.

In the early morning my friend's mother had suddenly passed away. During the course of that day the family members were busy making the funeral arrangements. One of the necessary funeral preparations was the selection of an appropriate burial place. In order to accomplish this task, the sons and father drove to the nearby family graveyard. They came to the

area in the cemetery that had been reserved for the family. As the sons waited, the father walked over the small area and slowly but deliberately selected the exact spot in which to bury his wife. He paused for a moment, then turned to the sons standing nearby and said, "Boys, it's up to you." Without another word or motion he dropped to the ground and died.

No one will ever know exactly what this father intended to express when he made that statement to his sons; however, I have often reflected on this short sentence and firmly believe that he preached a rather lengthy sermon to his sons. I cannot think of a more wonderful memory and challenge of a dear loved one to treasure.

In Chapter 28:18 through 20, Matthew records a very similar event that is just as real and personal to every individual who has had the privilege of becoming a child of God. These verses state: (18) And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The occasion referred to in Matthew 28 took place after the resurrection of Jesus and at a place designated earlier by Him. The setting was one of joy because Jesus and his followers were once again united, but it must have been one of anxiety as well because the disciples were beginning to understand that they were to be God's instruments in accomplishing His master plan for mankind. Too, the disciples were beginning to comprehend that their dear friend would be going away.

In the setting of the Mount of Olives, Jesus chose to present to his loved ones and followers his last earthly request

and certainly the most personal, far-reaching, and permanent one he would ever make. This command was to go (everyone who had or would ever accept his saving power), everywhere, (throughout the entire world), and witness (tell of his saving power) and teach them to observe my commandments. The Bible tells us that immediately after giving this great and wonderful mission to his followers he was parted from them and carried up into Heaven.

Just as this father referred to earlier, no doubt, spoke a lengthy sermon to his sons in that short sentence, Jesus did the same to his disciples in two short verses. He made his request clear as to who would be responsible for the mission, where the mission was to be conducted, and what the mission was expected to accomplish.

The scope of Jesus' request is unlimited in nature. When he said "go ye" he was referring to those followers present and all who would become his disciples in the future. The mission was to be conducted in every area of the world, and the task was to tell others of his saving power.

Because God is omniscient, he could have chosen any method to save man from his sins. A flip of the finger, the blinking of the eye, or a simple word would be sufficient, but he selected another way. He gave this great and wonderful responsibility to those who have had the privilege to hear and accept the saving power of Jesus Christ.

Because Jesus has assigned Christians the responsibility and provided us with the means to accomplish the tasks, we must without delay, exert every effort to be obedient to his command. We must establish priorities in our Christian service and bring these priorities into proper focus. We must recognize that this is a command to each of us personally. Our prayer should be to ask God to give us broader shoulders to do more rather than to place the responsibility on someone

else. It is imperative that we go the second mile in Christian service and be willing to sacrifice in order to accomplish our mission.

Jesus was in effect saying to his followers, "Boys, it's up to you."

Herbert S. Hoff is director of the office of intergovernmental personnel for the State of Mississippi.

Politics and Religion

Editor:

About Moral Majority and its endorsements, the group endorsed Congressman Kelley, Republican, Florida, who was indicted in the Abscam Scandal. Kelley was defeated September 9.

Moral Majority opposes Salt II, Billy Graham supports it. By that standard Billy Graham is less than moral.

At a White House briefing of members of the clergy, Jerry Falwell of Moral Majority stated that President Carter made a remark favorable to homosexuals. Jimmy Allen, former President of the Southern Baptist Convention, said Falwell's statement was untrue. Also, it was reported in the Sept. 10 issue of The Commercial Appeal that a tape recording was made of the meeting and that the President did not make such a remark.

Are people going to be led around by this power-seeking clergyman who boasts of what his and allied groups are going to do? Are we going to submit to a dictatorship of the clergy? We do not need preachers to dictate to us any more than we need a government to do the same thing.

Kirby Tyrone

Editor:

I find it reprehensible that the leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention were used by the Ronald Reagan political machine to attempt to destroy the most Christian president this country

has ever had. Falwell, Robertson, Robison, Schlafly, Crane, Helms, Vander Jagt: all big names in religion, special interest groups, and the U.S. Congress. It is ironic that Jesus' name was mentioned only once in your article.

Politics is a dirty business. I wonder who Jesus would vote for in November. I do not believe His judgment of President Carter would be as harsh as some of those at the National Affairs Briefing.

Curtis J. Brinson

Terry

Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention are free to take whatever actions they want to in the political arena. They realize, of course, that such activity could produce other than the desired results. And while this publication in no wise endorses meetings such as was held in Dallas recently, it must be realized that only one of the people prominently involved has any official connection with the Southern Baptist Convention at the present time. This is the president of the convention, Bailey Smith. Several former leaders and prominent pastors were there. Their leadership at this point is dependent solely on the amount of influence they are able to generate. Such is the case also with President Smith. His elected position gives him no official voice. We are free to be influenced or not as we see fit. Perhaps the real question is, who was using whom?—Editor

Dartmouth Students

Editor:

We now have an active Baptist Student Union and Southern Baptist Church at Dartmouth College. We would appreciate Baptist Record readers sending the names and addresses of students at Dartmouth this fall to Upper Valley Baptist Fellowship, Box A-79, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755.

We will do our best to minister to them.

Sincerely,
Merwyn Borders, Pastor
Upper Valley Baptist Fellowship
Box A-79
Hanover, NH 03755

Sylacauga History

The history committee of the First Baptist Church of Sylacauga, Ala., is working on a history of our church which we plan to publish in time for the sesquicentennial of our church in 1983. We would deeply appreciate your publishing through the letters to the editor of your paper a request that any of your subscribers who have any information regarding the history of our church communicate the same to me at the below listed address.

Mrs. Homer Taylor
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"Tell Me About Your Jesus," Youth Says As Result Of Rankin Love-A-Child Project

(Continued from page 1)
Pelahatchie Baptist Church, and the youth Bible school was at night. "I want you to go with us," Sally told him. "No! I don't want to be preached at."

"Then you'll have to go back to the detention center." When Sally saw the tears begin to form in the boy's eyes she relented. "Just go tonight. Then if you don't like it, you need not go any more." Eric had never been to Bible school before. After the first sample, he needed no more urging, but was eager to keep going.

Some of the people in the Pelahatchie Church bought him a new suit of clothes. A month later, a permanent home had been found for him and he was leaving. He dressed up in his new clothes and asked, "Would you mind trimming my hair?"

As he sat with the Stevens at their supper table, he said, "All right, tell me about your Jesus Christ! Why has He made your family so different from

the ones I have known?" The youth court counselor expressed amazement at the change in Eric's attitude after the month with a Christian family, where he had been the recipient of love.

Shelter Needed.

Concerning the need for a youth shelter, Doug Rawson, administrator of the Rankin County Youth Court, pointed out that the court had 180 new cases from Jan. 1 through Aug. 13 of this year. Of the average 10 or 12 a day brought to the court, he said, perhaps two a day are youngsters who have been mistreated or abandoned. (Since Rankin County does not have a detention center for delinquents, its youth court sends youths to the one in Jackson. "It costs \$18 per child per day there, and the cost is expected to go up soon," Rawson said.)

"The abused and abandoned don't meet the criteria to be placed in a detention center," Rawson said. "That's why we need a shelter, a place where

they can stay, a place that doesn't have the flavor of a detention center."

"We need help from the churches and communities," he added. "It's hard to find temporary homes for children and teenagers. Sometimes it takes months to find a temporary home, and then longer to find a permanent home for a child. We need names of people who would be willing to provide temporary homes."

Other Needs

In addition to temporary homes, he said that tutors are needed to teach juveniles after school hours, for 30 or 45 minutes, twice a week.

Temporary homes, he said, are also needed for juveniles on probation, usually juveniles whose parents won't allow them to return home.

Rawson stated, "A young person on informal probation, maybe after a first time offense for shoplifting or vandalism, may just need a friend who will be a good influence. That friend may make all the difference in his or her life."

He emphasized, "It is important that offenders be referred to the Court and not feel that they are getting away with their crimes. However, I believe in keeping them out of the justice system if possible, particularly after a first offense." Love and friendship at such a time may keep a youth from becoming a future criminal, he said.

The court sometimes offers rewards (for good behavior) to juveniles on probation. Rawson said that a party given by a group of five or six from a church, a shopping trip with, or a special weekend in the home of a Christian family would be the kind of reward the young person needs.

Land for a youth shelter has been

given already, near Pelahatchie. Bubba Flanagan, pig farmer, has donated 12 acres beside a lake, overlooking the rolling hills where he keeps his horses. A group of home builders promised to give the concrete for the foundation.

Howard Stevens said the cost of a main building there will be at least \$100,000 over what has been or is to be donated. Several flea markets have been held to help raise money for the shelter, and members of some Rankin churches donated goods to sell at the markets.

The Stevens' children, their daughter, Terry Franklin, and son Mark, a dentist, have also been active in the work with juveniles. Terry, who took a group of 30 youths from the detention center to Parchman for a tour of the facility said that the number of girls in detention is usually about the same as the number of boys.

Sally Stevens said, "For the teenagers we have kept in our home, we have made only two rules: Clean up your room; clean up the bathroom." She said that they have had very little trouble with infraction of these rules.

"Show Them... God's Love"

Sally has spoken in many of the churches of Rankin County, concerning a ministry to juveniles. Since the names of juveniles who break the law are not published, people are often not aware of how many there are in each community Sally said. "There may be five or six on your street, or in your community, who are or have been on probation, and you just don't know it."

She said, "When we meet their physical, social, emotional, and spiritual needs, we show them the truth of God's love."

Clarke Enrollment Shows Big Increase

Gary N. Garner, academic dean at Clarke College, reported that there has been a significant increase in enrollment at Clarke for the Fall, 1980, semester. At the end of the regular enrollment period 192 students had signed for day and night classes at Clarke. Garner expected this number to go somewhat higher as several special courses begin later in the fall.

The 192 students at Clarke represent a 22% increase over the 157 registered for Fall, 1979.

College administrators believe that the increase in enrollment is due to several factors. Increased efforts at informing prospective students about Clarke have been successful.

Over the past year admissions personnel and students have worked diligently to tell others about Clarke; often spending time at night calling high school seniors.

Renewed interest in the sports program of the college was credited with bringing several students who might have otherwise been missed. Joe Gibson, Baseball coach at Clarke, has said he is pleased that a number of fine athletes have chosen to acquire their college education at the Mississippi Junior College.

A. C. Johnson, president, has indicated his pleasure that many supporters of the college have responded this year. He stated that the financial situation is a reflection of the fact that people really believe in the future of Clarke College.

Allen Parnell, director of development reported that the first month of the new fiscal year is one of the highest in the history of the college. He said that the most promising fact is that there have been several new names added to the list of Clarke College supporters. Two gifts have been made which are among the largest that the

college has ever received. Parnell also stated that the response of the citizens of Newton has been tremendous and the Clarke Foundation of Newton is working to reach a goal of over \$100,000.

Pichses Named Missionaries

ATLANTA — Guillermo and Maria Pichs of Lakeland, Fla., have been appointed missionary associates by the Home Mission Board, SBC.

They will continue to live in Lakeland where he is pastor of the Spanish Mission of Lakeside Baptist Church for the HMB language missions department.

Their daughter, Rebecca, lives in Jackson and works at the University Medical Center. She is a graduate of Clarke and Mississippi College. The Pichses were in Jackson for several months earlier this year.

The Pichses were among 44 persons approved for missions service during the September meeting of the HMB executive committee.

Pichs, a native of Cuba, pastored churches in Cuba from 1958-1978. He has served at the Spanish Mission in Lakeland since June 1980. He attended the School of Arts and Chemistry Technology and Baptist Theological Seminary of Habana, both in Cuba. Maria Rodriguez Pichs is also a native of Cuba.

Yafia of Nazareth, Israel — Construction has begun on a multi-purpose building to serve as a kindergarten and meeting center for Baptists and other evangelicals in this village near Nazareth.

Baptists have met in homes for weekly worship since 1967 at the invitation of Hannah Insair, a graduate of Baptist School in Nazareth and the secretary of the local village council, according to Ray G. Register Jr., Southern Baptist representative in Israel.

Register said the chairman of the local council, a Muslim, has supported and encouraged him in the construction project — financed by \$4,000 raised locally and \$10,000 from the Lotie Moon Christmas Offering.

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Bubba Flanagan gave 12 acres for a youth shelter site.



Pelahatchie Baptist Church is sponsoring Love-a-Child Project as one of Rankin County's bold mission projects. Pelahatchie WMU in a luncheon meeting in August heard Sally Stevens give a report on the project. Standing, left to right, are Jonnie Robinson, Jean Brown, and Vaiden Mashburn. Seated, left to right: Margaret G. Ross, Inez Watts Summer, Lottie Shepard, and Sally Stevens.

As Week Of Prayer Begins

Arlington Heights Reports Four Professions Of Faith

Two teenagers and two children made professions of faith at Arlington Heights Church, Pascagoula, Sunday, Sept. 14. These four live at the housing project where Arlington Heights held Vacation Bible Schools this summer and where two women from the church have continued to hold a weekly Bible study. (The story of this mission project was told in a recent issue of the Baptist Record.) "I think this was a good way to begin the week of prayer for state missions," said Howard Taylor, pastor, "because these professions of faith came as a result of mission projects in this state."

Arlington Heights' goal for the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering was set at \$750, and the church planned to try to meet it in one day, Sunday, Sept. 21.

Names In The News



The Blackwells

Clear Branch, Rankin County, has recently licensed two to the gospel ministry. One is Michael Giordano, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Giordano of Pearl and husband of the former Kathy Keene. The other is Greg Johnston, the church's music director, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Johnston of McComb and who is

JOE BLACKWELL and Mrs. Blackwell were honored recently by the WILLIAMSVILLE CHURCH, ATTALA ASSOCIATION, on their 10th anniversary of pastoral ministry. A reception on Sunday afternoon was attended by a large number from many churches. Also, as an expression of love and gratitude, members of the church made a cash gift of over \$2600 in addition to numerous other gifts.

The Blackwells moved to Williamsville ten years ago from Moss Point. During these years church receipts have increased from less than \$25,000 annually to more than \$100,000. Of the \$107,544 given last associational year, \$22,292 went for missions. The church has grown numerically from 262 in 1970 to 423 in 1980. Additions to the physical properties have included construction of a Family Life Center with a gymnasium. Blackwell is currently moderator of the Attala Association.

married to the former Vicki Campbell and the father of a five-month-old son, Britt. Johnston is currently a student at New Orleans Seminary. Both Giordano and Johnston are available for supply preaching. They may be contacted through Roger E. Lee, the Clear Branch pastor, at phone 845-6423.



Murphy

Snell

Three Mississippians, Slater Murphy, Linda Snell, and Jerry Gentry, are among 20 Rice-Judson Scholars for 1980-81 named at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Murphy and Snell, both from Hattiesburg, attended William Carey College and Mississippi College respectively. Gentry, a Clinton native, is also a Mississippi College graduate.

Rice-Judson awards are annual \$500 grants for those students who plan church-related work in the United States or overseas.

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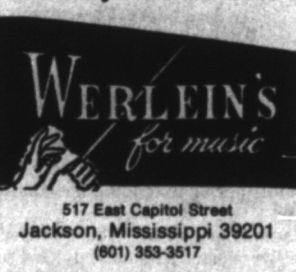
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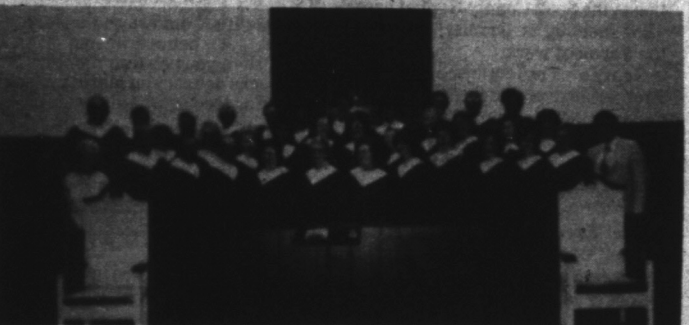
Just For The Record



THE YOUTH CHOIR of FIRST CHURCH, HOLLY SPRINGS took a choir tour Aug. 15-18, visiting churches in Rover, Tenn. and Elbethel, Tenn. They also went to Opryland, USA. The group is under direction of Ron Bolen, whose wife, Penny is the pianist.



FIRST, PONTOTOCH has been successful in obtaining, training, and benefiting from male workers in the young children's departments, according to a spokesman for the church. The six presently working are, left to right: Jerry Bell, Bed Babies Department; Neal Huskison, Five-Year Old Department; Terry Otts, Younger Two-Year Old Department; Jimmy Chittom, Older Two-Year Old Department; Buddy Montgomery, Four-Year Old Department, and Bobby May, Three-Year Old Department. Mrs. Billy Young is Preschool Division Director at the church.



The 34-member choir of Ashland Church on Aug. 17 presented the musical "I Love America," directed by Ed Sudduth, associate pastor-minister of music. Mrs. Hope Stone, church pianist, was accompanist. Narrator was Mrs. Nan Renick. Soloists were Dale Derrick, Rita Dievert, Tony Farese, Vivian Farese, and Ed Sudduth. Don Fisher served as sound technician. On Tuesday night, Aug. 19, this program was also presented at the Benton County Fair. Roy Lee Hamilton is the Ashland pastor.



The Thomleys Honored On 60th

Mr. and Mrs. Veroy Thomley of Route 4, Hattiesburg were honored with a reception Sunday, Sept. 14, celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. The reception was held in the fellowship hall at Calvary Church, Oak Grove.

The Thomleys were married September 18, 1920 in Columbia. They have lived in the Oak Grove community for 49 years and have been members of Calvary since 1933. They served as church custodians for many years.

The Thomleys have two children, Howard Thomley and Mrs. Fred (Helen) McKinney, both of Oak Grove, and members of Calvary. They have four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Off The Record

Two farmers from Texas were always trying to outdo each other regarding crops. One morning the first farmer said to his son Jimmie, "Go over to Ernest and borrow his crosscut saw for me. Tell him I want to cut a watermelon."

On returning, Jimmie said, "Ernest said he couldn't let you have the saw until this afternoon. He's only halfway through a cucumber."

Teacher: "Now which boy can name five things that contain milk?"
Jimmie: "Butter, cheese, ice cream, and two cows."

A little girl was telling her teacher about losing her baby teeth. One tooth was loose and she'd already lost three. She said, "Pretty soon I'll be running on the rim."

Why do they call it the coming generation? It spends most of its time going. — Changing Times

Homecomings

Stonewall Church, Simpson County: homecoming Sept. 28, with dinner on the ground (former members invited) following 11 a.m. worship service; revival Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.; Foy Killingsworth, pastor of New Hope Church, Simpson County, evangelist; Mrs. Bobby Jones, musician; Bobby Jones is pastor.

Parkway Church, Kosciusko: homecoming Sept. 28; revival Sept. 28-Oct. 1, Sunday Services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday-Wednesday services 7:30 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, evangelist; Herman A. "Butch" Milner, singer; Bobby Smith, pastor.

Fairview, Columbus: homecoming Sept. 28 with services at 8:15 a.m., 10:50 a.m., and 2 p.m. Speakers include all former pastors: Gilbert Pounders (8:15 a.m.), Luther Litchfield (10:50 a.m.), and Don Sheffield (2 p.m.), music directed by former ministers of music: Jimmy McCaleb, Buddy Earwood, and Dennis Kissinger, in the three services, respectively. Former members invited to services and dinner on the grounds.

Staff Changes

Darryl Wood has resigned the pastorate of Bluff Creek Church, Clinton, La. to accept the pastorate of Goodyear Church, Picayune.

Robert H. Rogers, former pastor of Harpersville Church, Harpersville, is now interim pastor of Plantersville Church, Plantersville.

Larry Darden, a Pascagoula native, has been called as associate pastor of Limestone Church, Westville, Fla. He is a first year student at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla. His wife is the former Ragana Milling, also from Pascagoula. They have three children.

Good school teachers know that they must be more than just teachers if they are to succeed. They know that their most perceptive critics will be neither the parents of the children they teach nor their fellow teachers. The perceptive critics will be the children they teach—even those in the first and second grades. The good teachers will soon be rewarded, whether the school be in a good neighborhood or in the poorest of slums, by being allowed to serve as second parents, advisors, big sisters, father figures, psychiatrists, etc. It's the reward they get for being good. School systems have not been able to devise a better one. — Editorial, Ebony.

Devotional

"Little Ones Are Safe, You Know"

By William M. Waddle, Pastor, Emmanuel, Grenada

And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God (Mark 10:13-14).

Sometimes we get so busy that we don't see and understand the more important things of life. As the little children were brought to Jesus, the disciples were afraid they would bother the Master. He was so busy with the crowds thronging him that they felt he did not have the time to be bothered with these children. After all, little children do not have the spiritual needs that adults have, do they? Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." This means everyone who has a knowledge of sin is a sinner and needs Jesus as own personal Saviour.

Jesus is teaching us not to hinder anyone who wants to come to him out of his or her own voluntary will.

Said a precious little laddie, to his father one day, "May I give my heart to Jesus, let him wash my sins away?"

Waddle

"Oh, my son, but you're too little, wait until you older grow. Bigger folk, 'tis true, need Jesus, but little ones are safe, you know." Said the father to his laddie, as a storm was coming on, "Are the sheep all sheltered, safe within the fold, my son?"

"All the big ones are, my father, but the lambs, I let them go. For I didn't think it mattered; little ones are safe, you know."

Oh, my brother! Oh, my sister! Have you too made that mistake? Little hearts that now are willing, may be hardened then — too late.

Ere the evil days come nigh them, "Let the children come to me, And forbid them not," said Jesus, "For of such shall my kingdom be."



IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Immanuel, Hattiesburg, Will Dedicate Facilities Oct. 5

Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg, will dedicate its new facilities Oct. 5. A dedication service and open house for the new multiple purpose building, educational wing, and offices will be at 2 p.m. The church, previously near William Carey, is now in a new location in a Hattiesburg suburb in Lamar County.

The multiple-purpose building is the first unit in the building plans, and will be used as a temporary auditorium until the main sanctuary can be constructed, possibly in the next three to four years. It will later be the permanent fellowship hall and youth recreation hall, and will also be used as a chapel and for other meetings.

This facility has a 600-seat capacity

when used as a sanctuary. As a banquet hall it can handle 450 to 475 people. It is equipped with a 42-seat choir loft, a platform, baptistry, and choir room.

The educational wing is the second phase of the building program. It has five adult classrooms, four preschool classrooms, and includes the church offices and kitchen as well.

In addition to the afternoon activities, Oct. 5 is Homecoming Day for Immanuel, as well as Sunday School High Attendance Day, according to Phil Harris, pastor.

Worry is like a rocking chair. It will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere."

Uniform Lesson

God's Covenant And Joshua

By Jack Glaze, Chairman
Division of Religion, MC

BASIC PASSAGE: Joshua 24:1-31;
Judges 2

FOCAL PASSAGE: Joshua 24:14-25

(The lesson passage should be studied prior to reading the commentary).

Lesson Background: This is the fourth of the quarter's lessons on "God's Covenant With His People." First, the early covenant with Noah and mankind was studied. Then came God's choice of Abraham (ca. 1900 B.C.). Subsequently, at Sinai (ca. 1280 B.C.) the covenant with the nation Israel was established. Now, some 50 years later, the great covenant renewal ceremony was celebrated at Shechem in Palestine.

The covenant at Sinai (Exodus 19-20) was with Israel. However, because of the peoples' sin (cf. Numbers 13:31-33; 14:26-33), it was a new generation that crossed the Jordan River under Joshua's leadership to possess the land.

From the beginning, covenant renewal was a basic factor in the relationship. Each generation would need to ratify the covenant for itself

sanctuary and periodically be read publicly; a list of deities were invoked as witnesses to the covenant; and finally, blessings and curses were included as sanctions of the covenant.

The Lesson Outlined:

The "preamble" and "historical prologue" are found in Joshua 24:2-13.

I. The Call for Covenant Renewal (24:14-15). This corresponds with the "stipulations" of the treaty form. God has taken the initiative. He has demonstrated who He is by what He does (24:2-13). Now He calls for absolute loyalty from His covenant people. The people must "fear" the Lord and "serve Him in sincerity and in truth" (v. 14). The polytheism and idolatry of both Mesopotamia and Egypt could not be tolerated. The choice must be made by every member of the covenant community (v. 15). The decision must be backed by action. The sincerity of the action would be seen in the repudiation of other "gods", whether they were of their forefathers or neighboring Amorites.

II. The Response of the People (24:16-18). The "stipulation" of the Hittite treaties also required that the "vassal kings" public accept the offer of the "great king." Here, Israel, under the emotion of the moment, re-

25). The "statute and ordinance" were written "in the book of the law of God" (v. 25-26) and deposited in the sanctuary at Shechem. At the place where Abraham built his first altar in Canaan, his descendants renewed the covenant and the tribal federation made another step in establishing their home in a pagan environment. Periodically God's people must renew their commitment and reaffirm their loyalty to the Sovereign Lord of Creation and history.

The Lesson Applied:

The Book of Joshua begins with God's charge to His servant. The book ends with Joshua's charge to God's people. Both the beginning and end of the book call for courageous action and covenant faithfulness. The individual and the group are reminded of covenant responsibility. The blessings of God's presence and favor can turn to divine judgment for violations of the covenant agreement.

A godly heritage is an invaluable help for personal instruction and role model; however, the faith of a parent cannot be transferred automatically to a child. Each individual must make the personal choice to accept or reject God's covenant.

Covenant renewal is also a

Life and Work Lesson

The Return Of Christ

By Bobby Perry, Pastor,
First, Moss Point
2 Peter 3:3-16

In bringing this second epistle to a conclusion, Peter dealt with the return of Christ, answering the scoffers and instructing the believers. His letter is appropriate for us today as it gives the proper perspective concerning the second coming of the Lord Jesus.

I. Peter's Admonition (3:3-7).

There have always been those who undertake to manage God's affairs themselves. When things do not work out as they plan or think, then they seek to save face by retreating into doubt and denial as to God himself and/or his work in the arena of history. Such were present in the first century as well as they are in the twentieth.

Peter believed that it was very important for him to warn the believers concerning scoffers who would come. The phrase "knowing this first" (verse 3), also used in 1:20, means that what he is about to say is very important. In the last days will come scoffers who will walk after their own lusts. Since Peter believed that he lived in the last days, believers today may surely consider that the last days are upon them. One characteristic of the last days is that those who lead self-

materialistic and naturalistic views to override both the incarnation of Christ in its full meaning, and those who make no pretense of a Christian faith. In both cases they see no intervention of God in human history. Furthermore, they rule out the supernatural, thus leaving man alone in his efforts to cope with life and its manifold problems. They have no present or future hope beyond what people can do for themselves. In their finer moments, they see nothing more than a deistic God who created the universe and left it to do its own thing. They do not conceive of a God who at times, in keeping with his will, overrules natural processes in order to accomplish his eternal purpose.

Peter responded to the scoffers by showing the hand of God in past history. And on that basis he declared that God would perform future acts in bringing history to a conclusion.

In verses 5 and 6 Peter incorporated the Genesis account as he wrote about the end of the world, because the same Bible that tells us how the world began in the Bible that tells us how the world will end.

The earth, as we know it, will one day undergo an even greater change than brought by the flood. The judg-

everyone time and opportunity to repent and be saved.

Verse 10 shows how suddenly, unexpectedly, and violently will be "the day of the Lord." This term is used for any great intervention of God in history. But here the reference is to the second coming of Christ and the end of the age.

In the next verse, Peter turns to make a very practical application from the fact that the earth will be destroyed. He sees a direct link between doctrine and life. Because God will change this world as we know it, we ought to live in keeping with His perfect holiness. The thought of the earth's destruction should not lead the Christian to despair, for his life ought not to be wrapped up in the things of this world. Rather he should work and watch (verse 12).

In verse 13, Peter mentions the promise that there will be more to come after the world is judged by fire. We believers anticipate that there will be "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

The anticipation of such a glorious day drives Peter to the personal application for the believer. Since only righteousness will survive this world, it is imperative that believers lead